approvals, *inter-alia*, is attributable to demand stagnation, high interest rate, corporate restructuring resulting in postponement of investment decisions and a sluggish export growth.

A State-wise break-up of industrial investment approvals in the non-SSI sector during the last four years is given in the annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure no. 37]

Election guidelines issued by PCI

*159. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Press Council of India had issued guidelines to the media for the objective reporting of the Assembly elections held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that no newspaper shall publish exit poll surveys, however genuine they may be, till the last date of the polls is over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Press Council of India, through a press release on 2.2.2000, reiterated its guidelines of 1996 regarding publishing reports on elections. The guidelines, *inter-alia*, urge the media to report on elections objectively and:

(i) Not to indulge in unhealthy election campaigns or give exaggerated reports about any candidate/party.

(ii) Eschew reports promoting feelings of enmity or hatred on any grounds.

(iii) Exercise care while publishing pre-poll surveys and not publish exit poll surveys, in the event of staggered polls.

(c) The policy of the Government is to uphold the freedom of the press and it does not propose to interfere in the functioning of the press or the Press Council.